

PLAYING W/

fire in milo's
backyard he had
a big stick &
i waved the cane
that got thrown
away when his
grandfather died
& we were scooping
pieces of burning
paper out of the
bonfire & lobbing
them at each other
& then dancing
back out of the
way tho sometimes
a scrap of flames
wd land on our
clothes & it was
fun to watch the
way fire wd skip
down the wrinkles
of our shirts
we were daring
each other to
get closer &
closer & his grand
father's cane
burned while we
were dancing in
sparks

I DIDN'T KNOW

the 2 kids
punching danny
fleetner one
stood on his
right side the
other on his
left & they
were taking
turns to see
who cd hit him
hardest it was
called being
judged & the
last hard right
was always one
upped by the
next one i
didn't say any
thing i just went
over & sucker
punched the kid
on danny's left
figuring he'd take
the other one but
he just stood there
jumping around &
biting his hand
while they both
kicked hell out of
me even tho it was
all a blur i recall
how he bit the skin
right down to the
bone

— todd moore

Albuquerque NM

RITUAL OF PREPARATION

How you, Becky
in the last days of your pregnancy,
fresh from the bath,
long hair brushed to a new shining,
sat fat and nude
on the blue bedspread
and painted your toenails
red.